

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ROME 06276 060336Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02
DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 H-01 PA-01 ICA-11
AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 /154 W
-----007739 061949Z /70

R 051638Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1861
USDEPT OF ENERGY GERMANTOWN
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 6276

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, MNUC, IT
SUBJECT: INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE ISSUES

REF: ROME 4405 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH INTERESTED ITALIANS
HAVE BROUGHT FORTH A NUMBER OF CRITICISMS OF U.S. NON-PRO-
LIFERATION AND NUCLEAR POLICY. AT THE SAME TIME, THESE
CONSULTATIONS OFFERED AMUCH-NEEDED OPPORTUNITY TO DISPLAY
U.S. OPEN-MINDEDNESS EXPECIALLY WITH
REGARD TO INFCE. END SUMMARY.

3. DR. A. GIAMBUSSO (DOE), PROF. GEORGE RATHJENS (M.I.T.),
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ROME 06276 060336Z

SCIATT SERWER AND EMBOFF GOFFE CONSULTED ON
MARCH 30 WITH MFA OFFICIALS (COSTA, QUAGLIOTTI, SIMONI,
MILESI-FERRETI) AND WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH OF THE
ITALIAN SUPPORT GROUPS FOR INFCE, INCLUDING ZAFFIRO OF ENEL
(STATE ELECTRICAL UTILITY), RISCIA, CIGNA, VALENTI AND
FARINELLI OF CNEN (NATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY COMMITTEE), FACCHINI
OF ENI (STATE FUELS AGENCY) AND MUSSO OF NIRA (STATE-OWNED

ADVANCED REACTOR COMPANY). IN ADDITION, RATHJENS (WITH SCIATT PRESENT) OFFERED A SEMINAR ON MARCH 31 AT ANSALDO MECCANICA NUCLEARE (THE GE REACTOR LICENSEE IN ITALY). PRESENT WERE APPROX. FORTY MANAGERS AND ENGINEERS FROM ALL SECTIONS OF THE ITALIAN NUCLEAR INDUSTRY. IN BOTH OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, A NUMBER OF POINTS CRITICAL OF U.S. POLICY (OR APPARENT POLICY) WERE RAISED.

3. PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT WAS THE VIEW THAT THE U.S. WAS ACTING ON NON-PROLIFERATION WITHOUT SUFFICIENT REGARD FOR ITS ALLIES' INTEREST. MANY FAMILIAR POINTS WERE RECITED TO SUPPORT THIS VIEW: ITALY LACKS A DOMESTIC COAL OPTION, THE ECONOMICS AND POLITICS OF THE BREEDER AND REPROCESSING ARE MORE ATTRACTIVE IN EUROPE, ITALY HAS ACCEPTED THE NPT AND PRESENTS NO PROLIFERATION RISK, ITALY WANTS NO INCREASE IN THE DISPARITY BETWEEN NUCLEAR AND NON-NUCLEAR STATES, ITALY IS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT VERTICAL THAN HORIZONTAL PROLIFERATION, ITALY AS A FRIEND AND ALLY SHOULD NOT BE TREATED LIKE STATES THAT POSE REAL PROLIFERATION RISKS. BY CONTRAST, THE U.S. APPEARS TO BE ACTING UNILATERALLY IN A WAY THAT AGGRAVATES ENERGY PROBLEMS IN WESTERN EUROPE, IGNORES MAJOR PROLIFERATION RISKS (E.G., RESEARCH OR DEDICATED REACTORS IN A FEW DEVELOPING COUNTRIES), AND KEEPS THE ENTIRE WORLD UNCERTAIN AS TO THE RULES OF THE GAME (WITNESS THE CRITERIA FOR EXPORT OF HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM AND THE PHYSICAL PROTECTION DISCUSSIONS AT THE IAEA).

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ROME 06276 060336Z

4. MFA OFFICIAL COSTA WASE SPECIALLY ASCERBIC IN OBJECTING TO THE U.S. ATTEMPT TO QTE LEGISLATE OUT OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT UNQTE BY DEMANDING RENEGOTIATION OF THE BILATERAL WITH EURATOM. COSTA WAS ALSO QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT THIS UNILATERAL U.S. INITIATIVE CAME QUICK ON THE HEELS OF THE SUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO QTE FOLD UNQTE THE ITALIAN BILATERAL INTO THE EURATOM AGREEMENT, A PROCESS RECENTLY COMPLETED IN A VERY COOPERATIVE SPIRIT BY BOTH SIDES.

5. THE PSYCHOLOGICAL DIMENSIONS OF THESE CRITICISMS ARE , WE BELIEVE, MORE IMPORTANT THEN THE SUBSTANCE, WHICH CAN READILY BE HANDLED THROUGH INFCE. WHAT U.S. OFFICIALS TEND TO SEE AS EFFORTS TO CONTROL RISKS AND THEREFORE TO MAKE NUCLEAR POWER ACCEPTABLE, THE ITALIANS (AND THEREUROPEANS) SEE AS OBSTACLES TO THEIR COMMERICAL NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAMS. FARINELLI, IN A PARTICULARLY STRONG PRESENTATION, EMPHASIZED THAT EUORPEANS HAD BEEN TOO TRUSTING AND HAD FOLLOWED THE TWISTS AND TURNS OF THE U.S. POLICY TOO MUCH. THE RESULT HAS CLEARLY BEEN TO STREGNTHEN, EVEN AMONG THE RELATIVELY COMPLIANT ITALIANS, THE FEELING THAT A STRONG, INDEPENDENT SPRIRIT IS REQUIRED. THIS SPIRIT IS MOST LIKELY TO BE MANIFEST BY THE ITALIANS INFCE, WHERE WE EXPECT THEM TO BACK REPROCESSING AND THE PLUTONIUM BREEDER, REGARDLESS

OF ECONOMIC ARGUMENTS AND WITH ONLY MINOR CONCESSIONS TO TECHNOLGICAL OR INSTITUTIONAL FIXES.

6. ON INFCE, WHICH IS STILL VIEWED SOLELY AS U.S. INITIATIVE, THERE WERE STRONG COMPLAINTS ABOUT NOT GETTING DOWN TO TECHICAL ISSUES. POLITICAL AND PROCEDURAL HASSLES WERE TAKING TOO MUCH TIME. IN ADDITION, FARINELLI POINTED OUT THAT INFCE HAS NOT BEEN ORGANIZED PROPERLY TO ALLOW FOR OPTIMIZING DECISIONS ABOUT THE WHOLE FUEL CYCLE, BUT INSTEAD FOCUSSES PRIMARILY ON THE SEPARATE COMPONENTS.

7. COMMENT: THESE CONSULTATIONS, AND ESPECIALLY THE BALANCED PRESENTATION OF UNOFFICIAL BUT INFLUENTIAL VIEWS BY RATHJENS, WERE HELPFUL INCONVINCING THE ITALIANS OF OUR OPEN-MINDEDNESS AND IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 ROME 06276 060336Z

STIMULATING A GENUINE DIALOGUE. AT THE SAME TIME, WE RECIVED A CLEAR MESSAGE: WE LOSE LEVERAGE FOR THE FUTURE EVERYTIME WE USE IT IN THE PRESENT. WE MAY WELL GET EURATOM'S AGREEMENT TO RENEGOTIATE, BUT IN THE PROCESS WE HARDEN THE RESOLVE TO RESIST OUR NEXT STEP, OR MORE GENERALLY TO RESIST U.S. VIEWS PRESENTED IN INFCE. END COMMENT. HOLMES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, NPT, NUCLEAR FUELS, SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME06276
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780149-0493
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780489/aaaacyai.tel
Line Count: 142
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 22fdeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ROME 4405
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3065055
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE ISSUES
TAGS: ENRG, MNUC, IT, US
To: STATE DOE MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/22fdeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014